

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A credit instrument for allowing a cardholder to automatically charge fees to a club, merchant or service provider, comprising:

a credit card capable of charging point of service transactions to be posted on a cardholder's account;

said credit card having encoded information thereon that associates the cardholder with a plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers for which automated charges can be effectuated without requiring the cardholder or the plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers to submit payment authorization or payment requests for each automated charge;

wherein said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers are affiliated with at least one common partner; and

wherein said credit card is affiliated with a predetermined credit network and issuer, and is accepted for purchases anywhere the predetermined credit network is accepted for purchases

~~encoded information thereon identifies one or more said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers for use as an admission pass.~~

Claim 2 (original): The credit instrument of claim 1, wherein said encoded information is of an account number that is correlated by a credit card processing system to said plurality.

Claim 3 (original): The credit instrument of claim 2, wherein said cardholder's account is automatically updated to reflect said automated charges by said credit card processing system.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A server-based system for processing auto-charges for one or more clubs, merchants or service-providers, comprising:

a server adapted to interface with user systems for receiving applications and batch processing of auto-charge transactions;

a monetary processor system for processing point of sale transactions submitted over an interchange;

a dues processor system for processing batch files of auto-charges; ~~and~~

a database containing information of a plurality of cardholders including information describing charges to be processed automatically for a plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers ~~and wherein said database further contains information describing admission of said plurality of cardholders into said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers;~~

wherein said auto-charge transactions do not require the plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers to submit a charge for each auto-charge transaction; and

wherein said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers are associated with at least one common partner.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 5, further comprising a report processor system for generating reports of account activity.

Claim 7 (original): The system of claim 5, further comprising a transaction processor for accessing said database to determine if a transaction request is to be authorized.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The system of claim 5, wherein said database further contains information identifying a partner that is associated with a plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers.

Claim 9 (original): The system of claim 8, wherein said partner is a branch of the military.

Claim 10 (original): The system of claim 8, wherein said partner is a university or college.

Claim 11 (original): The system of claim 9, wherein said database contains information identifying one or more installations or bases of said partner.

Claim 12 (original): The system of claim 9, wherein said database is a fully relational database allowing a cardholder to be transferred from one installation or base to another installation or base.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A server-based networked system for processing auto-charges for cardholders associated with a plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers, comprising:

a server for receiving applications, processing point of sale transactions and processing auto-charges to the plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers; ~~said server further comprising a database comprising information describing admission of said cardholders into said plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers;~~

a plurality of user systems for submitting applications; ~~and~~

a network interfacing said server and said plurality of user systems;

wherein said auto-charges do not require the plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers to submit a payment request for each auto-charge; and

wherein said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers are associated with at least one common partner.

Claim 14 (original): The system of claim 13, wherein at least one of said user systems is located at a military base.

Claim 15 (original): The system of claim 13, wherein at least one of said user systems is located at a university or college.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The system of claim 13, said server further comprising a database of cardholders including information of charges to be automatically posted to cardholder accounts and credited to a club, merchant or service-provider.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method for providing a credit card system that automatically bills cardholders and credits clubs, merchants or service-providers, comprising:

providing a credit card processing system having a database of cardholder account data;

including in said database information of a plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers agreeing to auto-charging of dues or fees ~~and information describing admission of said cardholders into said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers; and~~

entering data in said database for an applicant or cardholder of one or more clubs, merchants or service-providers which are to be issued funds automatically without the one or more clubs, merchants or service-providers submitting a payment request for each due or fee; and

wherein said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers are associated with at least one common partner.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein said step of entering data includes entry of information describing at least one of the frequency and date of the funds to be issued.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18, wherein said step of entering data includes entry of information describing the amount of funds to be issued.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of processing a plurality of transaction requests based on said data.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of processing a series of transaction requests based on information in a database for a plurality of cardholders which

describes a plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers to be paid automatically,
comprising:

periodically searching a database to identify a plurality of cardholders who are to be
charged a fee or due by one or more clubs, merchants or service-providers without the one or
more clubs, merchants or service-providers submitting a payment request for each fee or due;

generating a batch of transaction requests based on said step of searching;

submitting said batch to a transaction processor; and

updating the accounts of said plurality of cardholders based on results reported by said
transaction processor, ~~said step of updating further comprising updating information describing~~

~~admission of said cardholders into said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers; and~~

wherein said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers are associated with at least
one common partner.

21
Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of
automatically transferring funds to a club, merchant or service-provider based on said results.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of
automatically transferring funds to a base or installation associated with said plurality of clubs,
merchants or service-providers.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein said club, merchant or service-
provider is located on a military base or installation.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein at least one club,
merchant or service-provider of said plurality of clubs, merchants or service-providers is located
on a military base or installation.

Claim 26 (re-presented - formerly dependent claim 4): The method of claim 1, wherein said encoded information identifies one or more said plurality of clubs, merchants or service providers for use as an admission pass.

20 / Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the automated charges are submitted directly to a card provider, bank, or combination thereof.

Claim 28 (new): The system of claim 5, wherein the auto-charges are not submitted through a credit card interchange.
